Tenants in the 1870S AND 1880S and 1890s

An 1878 ledger, former slaves appear with their descendants, such as Collins Page and Beni; Derziline Nargot, Dominique [Minique], Andrew, and Rosalie Toussaint, Solomon Williams, Jr., Eugene Williams, Catherine and Louise Williams.

The Ginning record books for the 1890s show that many area planters used the Oakland gin and that many of the former slaves of Bermuda/Oakland either worked for Oakland or on neighboring plantations. Among the sharecroppers in 1893 were J.B. Petit (1/2 hand), Henry Bobb (1/4), Louis Petit, Simon Walker (1/2), Robert Darceno, Minigue Jones, Clement Claiborne (1/4), Neville Jones, Daniel williams, Caesar Petit, Bill Nore and his wife Sally Nore, Auguste Lewis, and Ben Plaisance.

The 1900 Gin Book lists Melanie Francoise. She would be a long-time servant, probably "Mammy" on the place. Her family were slaves.

As late as 1929, the Prudhommes rented a cabin to Melanie Françoise for \$2.00 per month.

Other old Bermuda/Oakland families who used the gin were the Helaires, the Lewises. Jean Baptistes, the Plaisances [descendants of Rene Plaisance], the Edmonds, and the Honores.

In 1910, Edward Carrington Prudhomme, at Riverside, wrote in his journal that one of the old workers had died. Feb. 5 "Old Negro Seraphin Edmond died last night—one of the old timers and good darky." [Edward Carrington Prudhomme's 1910 journal] He was the progenitor of the various Edmonds who worked on the plantation through the 1940s and 1950s.

In 1912, many of the former slaves and their children, as well as Creoles who would remain on Oakland well into the 1950s are already working on shares. These include Frank, John, Edward, and Felix Helaire; Augustus Lewis, Collins Page, Julio Jean Baptiste, Ignacias Jean Baptiste [later Batise or Batiste, Eviriste Dorcino, J. B. Edmonds (Bacquie), Sr.; Neville Jones, and Creoles Emanuel Rogues, Delina Rogues, Anthony Rogues, Amogee Rogues, Eugene Metoyer, Alcee Metoyer, Clay LaCour, and Charles Jones.

By 1912 many of these and other Oakland slaves' descendants were working on other plantations nearby. For example, Henry Moses was working for Joseph Cloutier, Caesar Petit for Lestant Prudhomme, Simon Toussaint for Lestant Prudhomme, Darziline Nargot and Seraphine Nargot for P. Felix Prudhomme, Bob Dorcino for P. Albert Prudhomme.

1. Oakland Plantation, Its People Testimony by Anne Malone pp. 108-110